

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/435,996

Applicant(s)

WATANABE, MITSUHIRO

Examiner

Doug Hutton

Art Unit

2179

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Request for Continued Examination filed 11 March 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 4-23 and 26-47.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 02 June 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 28 February 2005 has been entered.

Applicant's Response

In Applicant's Response dated 28 February 2005, Applicant amended Claim 23, cancelled Claims 6 and 7, and argued against all rejections previously set forth in the Office Action dated 11 January 2005.

All rejections previously set forth are withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4-23 and 26-47 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

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Claims 4-22:

Claims 4-22 are allowed for the reasons indicated in the Office Action dated 30 September 2003.

Claims 23 and 26:

Regarding Claims 23 and 26, the closest prior art is Royer (US 4,872,196) and Sugano (US 5,457,454).

Royer discloses a Japanese letter input method comprising:

- disposing Japanese letters and symbols in a concentric circle form; and
- inputting the letters and symbols by designating, in a predetermined sequence, coordinates on the concentric circle form that correspond to the letters and symbols using the appropriate telephone keys.

Sugano discloses a Japanese letter input method comprising:

- disposing Japanese letters and symbols in a key arrangement on a display screen; and
- inputting the letters and symbols by designating coordinates on the key arrangement that correspond to the letters and symbols using a write-pen.

However, neither Royer nor Sugano discloses or suggests a joystick that moves "from a center of [a] concentric circle form outward along one or several directions to a point on the circumference of said concentric circle form," as recited in Claim 23 (see Lines 6-8).

Accordingly, the subject matter of Claim 23 is allowable. Claim 26 is dependent upon Claim 23 and is thus allowable.

Claims 27-45:

Claims 27-45 are allowed for the reasons for the reasons indicated in the Office Action dated 13 August 2004.

Claims 46 and 47:

Claims 46 and 47, which were formerly Claims 24 and 25 (see *Applicant's Response* dated 2 June 2004), are allowed for the reasons for the reasons indicated in the Office Action dated 13 August 2004.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Doug Hutton whose telephone number is (571) 272-4137. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon, can be reached at (571) 272-4136. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2100.

WDH

April 13, 2005


HEATHER R. HERNDON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100